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1. (Currently Amended) A balloon holder, comprising a decorative bag, a core having sufficient weight to hold at least one buoyant balloon in place and positioned within said decorative bag, and decorative material held secured to said core in a position to conceal said core from casual view, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.

2. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 1, said core being secured to the interior of said decorative bag.

3. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 2, said decorative material being formed from a length of decorative sheet material having its upper portion cut into a series of strips adapted to extend outwardly from said decorative bag and its lower portion secured around the periphery of said core.

4. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 3, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons.

5. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 4, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.

6. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 2, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons.

7. (Original) A ~~balloon~~ holder as set forth in claim 6, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.

8. (Amended) A holder for a balloon as set forth in claim 1, including an inner liner fitted within said decorative bag, said core being held to the interior of the lower portion of said inner liner and said decorative material being held to the [interior of the] upper periphery of said inner liner.

9. (Amended) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 8, said decorative material being formed from a length of decorative sheet material having its upper portion cut into a series of strips adapted to extend outwardly from said decorative bag and its lower portion held around [the interior of] the upper periphery of said inner.

10. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 9, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons.

11. (Original) A ~~balloon~~ holder as set forth in claim 10, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.

12. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 8, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons.

13. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 12, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.

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14. (Original) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 1, said decorative material being formed from a length of decorative sheet material having its upper portion cut into a series of strips adapted to extend outwardly from said decorative bag and its lower portion held within said decorative bag.

15. (Cancelled) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 1, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons.

16. (Cancelled) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 15, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.

15 17. (New) A balloon holder, comprising a decorative bag, a core formed of a weighty material adapted to hold one or more buoyant balloons in place and positioned within said decorative bag, and decorative material secured within said bag in a position to conceal said core from casual view and extending outwardly from said bag.

C2 18. (New) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 17, said core being secured to the interior of said decorative bag.

16 19. (New) A balloon holder as set forth in claim 15, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.

17 20. (New) A balloon holder, comprising a decorative bag, a core formed of a weighty material adapted to hold one or more buoyant balloons in place and secured to the interior

~~of said decorative bag, said decorative bag concealing said core from casual view.~~

18 ~~21~~. (New) A balloon holder as set forth in claim ¹⁷~~20~~, said core having sidewalls generally trapezoidal in shape to taper towards the upper portion of said decorative bag.

19 ~~22~~. (New) A balloon holder as set forth in claim ¹⁷~~20~~, said decorative bag having handles extending from an upper portion thereof to serve as an attachment for a string of one or more balloons, the upper portions of said handles being secured together.